

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 5

TO THE UNITED STATES SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

Your Memorialists, the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska, in Third regular Session assembled, do most respectfully and earnestly represent that,

Whereas, there is now pending in the Congress of the United States, H. B. 17499 introduced August 18th, 1916, by Mr. Alexander of Missouri and entitled: "A Bill for the Protection, Regulation and Conservation of the Fisheries of Alaska and for other purposes" and

Whereas, the fishermen and residents of the Coast of Alaska have better knowledge of the requirements for regulation and conservation of the Alaskan fisheries than the legal advisors of the fisheries corporations and representatives of the United States Bureau of Fisheries who drafted H. B. 17499, and

Whereas, Section 22 of H. B. 17499 expressly prohibits the Territory of Alaska from levying taxes upon the business or property of the fisheries interests and thus rescinds the rights granted this Territory by Congress under the Territorial Organic Act and thereby retards the development of our Territory and the upbuilding of our public school system, and

Whereas, Section 6 of H. B. 17499 which provides for title in perpetuity to holders of fish trap sites in Alaskan waters will surely lead to monopoly of the Alaskan fisheries and forever exclude portable fishing gear from certain sections of our tide water, and

Whereas, numerous appeals have been sent to the Congress of the United States from all sections of Alaska imploring Senators and Representatives to prevent this great injustice to Alaska, now

Therefore, we, the representatives of the people of Alaska, in session assembled, do most respectfully urge that the provisions of the Alexander Bill be not forced upon our people and that our rights to levy taxes given under our Organic Act be preserved to us;

And we would further appeal to Congress to grant the people of Alaska the right to control and regulate our own fisheries, and your Memorialists will ever pray.

Passed the Senate, Apr. 4, 1917.

Passed the House, Apr. 6, 1917.